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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ya XU et al.

Mail Stop: PCT

Serial No. NEW

Attorney Docket No. 2006-1228A

Filed August 2, 2006

INTERMETALLIC COMPOUND Ni<sub>3</sub>Al CATALYST FOR REFORMING METHANOL AND METHANOL REFORMING METHOD USING SAME [Corresponding to PCT/JP2005/001861 Filed February 2, 2005]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced U.S. patent application please amend the application as follows: